Consumer Protection Act

985. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) whether Government have carried any review to ascertain as to how the objectives of the Act have been achieved;

(c) if so, the results of the review; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider constitution of a Review Committee to plug the loopholes of the Act and mend some of its grey areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD):(a) to (d) The objectives of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are to provide for better protection of the interests of consumers and for that purpose to make provision for the establishment of consumer councils and other authorities for the settlement of consumers' disputes and for matters connected therewith. With a view to ensure that the objects and purposes of the Act are best served, the working of the Consumer Protection Act has been reviewed from time to time and the Act has been amended in the years 1991 and 1993. The Act has again been comprehensively amended very recently through the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 which was brought into force from 15.3.2003 to make it more functional and effective after a thorough review.

Food stock

986. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public food stock has declined drastically in the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of the current level; and

(c) whether Government have decided on the optimum stock the FCI should hold as buffer to meet eventualities like drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA):(a) and (b) The stock of foodgrains in the last three months is as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1.9.2003	71.24	207.04	278.28
1.10.2003	52.41	184.27	236.68
1.11.2003	109	164.13	273.13

(c) The minimum buffer levels are decided after taking into account the requirement and Public Distribution System, Welfare Scheme and eventualities like drought. The present minimum buffer levels are as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	118.00	40.00	158.00
1st July	100.00	143.00	243.00
1st October	65.00	116.00	181.00
1st January	84.00	84.00	168.00

BIS specifications for electric bulbs

987. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the controversy about the soft drinks and bottled water following or not following ELL safety norms and presence of pesticides therein, another NGO, namely Consumer Education and Research Society has come up with a study revealing that most of the electric bulbs do not confirm the BIS specifications;

(b) if so, what are the BIS specifications laid down for bulbs in respect of longevity and life of a standard bulb, and how far each of the Indian bulb product falls short, of the standard; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?